

emdr RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2018

ANNUAL REPORT MAKE A GIFT.

FUND THE
RESEARCH.

CHANGE A LIFE.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the EMDR Research Foundation, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Foundation. 2018 was a banner year for us, celebrating 12 years of promoting quality, unbiased research of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy. As the only organization worldwide solely dedicated to supporting EMDR research, the Foundation continued its efforts to inform, strengthen, and expand the understanding and effectiveness of EMDR.

- Raised more than \$174,000 to support innovative EMDR research and welcomed 34 new Visionary Alliance members.
- Awarded three research grants to expand the evidence base for EMDR therapy across a range of populations and disorders, including improving addiction-focused EMDR therapy, EMDR treatment in PTSD following Acute Coronary Syndromes, and treating suicidal triggers.
- Previous research grant awardees, Lycia D. de Voogd and Erno J. Hermans of Donders Institute for Brain, Cognitiation and Behaviour at Radboud University in The Netherlands, published the study "Eye-movement intervention enhances extinction via amygdala deactivation" which examines how eye movements may reduce fear-related trauma.
- Previous research grant awardee, Amanda Roberts, published the study "The Effects of the EMDR Group Traumatic Episode Protocol With Cancer Survivors" which examines the efficacy and safety of the Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Group Traumatic Episode Protocol (G-TEP) in the psychological treatment of cancer survivors and its potential effects on posttraumatic stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms.
- Created the EMDR Early Intervention (EEI) Fund, a dedicated fund to support research exploring the long-term effectiveness of EEI and to evaluate whether it can prevent the eventual development of PTSD.

I am pleased to share this Annual Report with you that brings to light the important work of the Foundation. On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors, we are grateful for the partnership and generosity of stakeholders and donors like you. We could not succeed in our mission without you, and together, we are enhancing the quality of life for people everywhere by facilitating healing, health, and well-being!

In Gratitude,

Wendy J. Freitag, Ph.D.

Wendy & Freitag Ph.D

President

About the Foundation

Founded in 2006, the EMDR Research Foundation is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of quality, unbiased research in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing). EMDR is an evidence-based psychotherapy effective in the treatment of persons who have experienced trauma.

The Foundation envisions a world where people are transformed into wellness and vibrancy by effective, compassionate mental health treatment that is driven by quality research. In an effort to inform, strengthen, and expand the understanding and effectiveness of EMDR, ultimately the Foundation enhances the quality of life for people everywhere by facilitating healing, health, and well-being.



Dedicated Funds

Hope for Children Fund: Created in memory of Carol York, EMDRIA's first Executive Director and a pioneer in working with children, all funds raised are used for research on EMDR therapy with children.

Suicide Prevention & Survivor Support Fund: Thanks to a bequest from E.M. "Sandy" Murray to memorialize his oldest daughter, Marcia Murray, all funds raised are used to support EMDR therapy research in suicide prevention and survivor support.

Early Intervention (EEI) Dedicated Fund: All funds raised are used for research to determine the long-term effectiveness of EMDR Early Intervention (EEI) and to evaluate whether it can prevent the eventual development of PTSD.

OUR IMPACT

Advancing EMDR Research

The EMDR Research Foundation awarded **three** new **\$25,000** research grants in 2018, bringing the total amount of grants awarded to **\$383,000** since the Foundation's inception in 2006. Each year, the Foundation awards approximately \$50,000-\$150,000 in research grants to EMDR therapy researchers, practitioners, and students through a careful and stringent application process. As the only organization worldwide solely dedicated to the study of EMDR therapy, these exciting new projects will contribute to the growing research on the use of EMDR therapy to treat suicidal drivers, PTSD following Acute cardiac syndromes, and addiction.



Treating Suicidal Drivers with EMDR therapy: A Randomized Controlled Trial J. Baptist, PhD

The long-term goal of this proposed research is to expand the field's knowledge of what works to prevent suicide by evaluating the longitudinal effectiveness EMDR therapy as a treatment for suicidal drivers (i.e., problems that lead to suicidality). The objective of this proposed research is to utilize a randomized-controlled trial (RCT) to compare the efficacy of EMDR with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to treat suicidal ideation and risk. The proposed study has the potential to make a significant contribution to the field of mental health. The study can provide evidence for the efficacy of EMDR that in turn can help expand the repertoire of psychotherapies to reduce suicidal risk in persons with depression and pave the way for larger scale RCTs. It is expected that EMDR can be effective in treating suicidal drivers that have similar characteristics to triggers that are the targets of trauma treatment. Treatments for suicidal risks among persons with depression can reduce the emotional and financial cost of losing a loved one and strengthen families and communities.

This is the first study funded from the Foundation's Suicide Prevention and Survivor Support fund.

EMDR Treatment in PTSD Following Acute Coronary Syndromes *C. Mueller-Pfeiffer, PhD*

Acute cardiac syndromes (ACS) can often result in debilitating and persistent psychological signs and symptoms. A key question involves whether optimal treatment of ACS-induced PTSD reduces PTSD signs and symptoms and thereby may offset the risk of recurrent or worsening cardiovascular disease. There is preliminary evidence suggesting that patients with cardiac-disease induced PTSD might particularly profit from EMDR. Nevertheless, this possibility has not been tested in ACS-induced PTSD. Currently, patients with ACS-induced PTSD are not routinely offered trauma-focused therapies, with a lack of scientific evidence likely being one major reason for this omission. If our proposed RCT shows that EMDR can be an effective treatment for the reduction of PTSD symptoms in patients with ACS, EMDR could be routinely implemented as first-line treatment. This knowledge might inform larger trials to test whether poor prognosis in terms of major adverse cardiovascular events can be improved through EMDR in patients with ACS and other types of cardiac-induced PTSD.

Improving addiction-focused EMDR: a Reconsolidation-based Approach *M. Littel, PhD*

The proposed project aims at a better understanding of the underlying neurocognitive mechanisms involved in EMDR treatment of addiction, one of the most prevalent mental disorders. Addiction-focused EMDR (AF-EMDR) is currently widely used and, although many initial studies indicate that this intervention might be effective, evidence is not conclusive. To date, AF-EMDR protocols have relied heavily on the original EMDR protocol for PTSD, whereas the nature of addiction memory and trauma memory differ substantially and their desensitization presumably requires different approaches. We will critically test three new, innovative experimental modifications to the current AF-EMDR protocol that take into account these differences and might improve its effectiveness. Overall, a more thorough understanding of the mechanisms of successful EMDR treatment of addiction will be achieved. A better understanding of these dynamics may ultimately lead to better treatment options (i.e. personalized treatment protocols for addiction).

Foundation Announces Publication of Two EMDR Therapy Studies

The EMDR Research Foundation is pleased to announce the release of a study on how EMDR may reduce fear-related trauma. Funded by the Foundation, the study, "Eye-movement intervention enhances extinction via amygdala deactivation" examines the use of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), was published in the Journal of Neuroscience in October 2018.

According to the National Institutes of Health, Department of Veteran Affairs, and Sidran Institute, **70% of adults** in the U.S. have experienced some type of traumatic event at least once in their lives, equating to approximately **223.4 million** people. Scientific research has established EMDR therapy as effective for post-traumatic stress, but more research still needs to be done.

"Early Intervention in response to crises, whether mass shootings, individual violence, accidents, or natural disasters has the potential to prevent or mediate the impact of trauma, and later development of PTSD," said Wendy J. Freitag, PhD., President of the EMDR Research Foundation. "We need additional research to determine the most effective responses to these events."

Authored by Lycia D. de Voogd and Erno J. Hermans of Donders Institute for Brain, Cognitiation and Behaviour at Radboud University in The Netherlands, this recent study provides an account of how behavioral manipulations of the working memory and suppressing amygdala activity — the part of the brain involved with the experiencing of emotions — can alter retention of emotional memories.



70% ADULTS

HAVE
EXPERIENCED
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One researcher noted, "There has not been enough research towards the execution of eye movements following trauma recall. Thanks to the support of the EMDR Research Foundation, this research will hopefully benefit more people with fear-related trauma."

To read the study, please visit the lournal of Neuroscience.

...Thanks to the support of the EMDR Research Foundation, this research will hopefully benefit more people with fear-related trauma.

- Erno J. Hermans, PhD

The EMDR Research Foundation is pleased to announce the release of a study on how EMDR

may be effective and safe in the psychological treatment of an oncology population. Funded by the Foundation, the study, "The Effects of the EMDR Group Traumatic Episode Protocol With Cancer Survivors" examines the use of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), was published in the Journal of EMDR Practice and Research in 2018.

Authored by Amanda Roberts, PhD, MA, this recent study provides an examination of the efficacy and safety of the Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Group Traumatic Episode Protocol (G-TEP) in the psychological treatment of cancer survivors and its potential effects on posttraumatic stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms.

To read the study, please visit the Journal of EMDR Practice and Research.

New Fund Supporting Early Intervention Research

The EMDR Research Foundation has established a dedicated research fund for those donors who want to direct their resources specifically to the support of research exploring the most effective and efficient way to provide early intervention to those in need.

The incidence of crises, whether personal violence, political trauma, the impact of war, or natural disasters, are rampant and increasing in our world today. Experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event directly leads to an increase in human suffering, but also impacts communities and entire regions by reduced productivity, decrease in educational opportunities, and a potential increase in violence and renewed trauma.

As EMDR therapy has developed as an effective treatment for trauma, a number of specialized applications have been developed in the area of early intervention. There is a growing body of research suggesting that early intervention with EMDR-based procedures can help to provide stabilization, can mediate the impact of trauma, or even provide full trauma resolution. Research is needed to determine the long-term effectiveness of EMDR Early Intervention (EEI) and to evaluate whether it can prevent the eventual development of PTSD.

These interventions can be offered within hours after exposure to a crisis, and typically within three months following an event. However, some researchers suggest that the early intervention procedures need not be limited by an arbitrary time-frame. There are protocols designed to treat groups as well as individuals. This greatly increases accessibility to treatment in communities or in groups that have suffered a common traumatic event. Examples of positive results to date have included the use of EEI in groups of children following an earthquake, war refugees living in refugee camps, individuals and groups of women following sexual assault, victims of a geopolitical crises, groups of women post-diagnosis of breast cancer, and children living in situation of ongoing violence.

Learn more about the EEI Fund here.

Foundation Receives Donation for Hope for Children Fund

The EMDR Research Foundation is pleased to announce it has received a generous donation from the 1st Virtual Summit of EMDR Therapy with Children & Adolescents. These funds will support the Hope for Children Fund, a dedicated fund used to support research on EMDR therapy for children and adolescents.

The 1st Virtual Summit of EMDR Therapy with Children & Adolescents was held in November 2018 for mental health professionals and EMDR-trained clinicians to learn more about the latest research and practice of EMDR therapy for children and adolescents. Ana Gomez, Chair of the Summit, stated, "We are pleased to donate a portion of the proceeds from the Summit to the Foundation's Hope for Children Fund, as this fund represents the Summit's goal of working with traumatized children and adolescents."

Created in honor of Carol York, the Hope for Children Fund is a dedicated research fund for those donors of the Foundation who want to direct their resources to support EMDR therapy research with children. York died in a tragic auto accident in October 2015. She was a pioneer in working with children and was committed to enhancing the professionalism of EMDR therapy.

According to the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health, almost half the nation's children have experienced at least one or more types of serious childhood trauma. Early intervention in response to crises has the potential to prevent or mediate the impact of trauma, and later development of PTSD, which is why the Foundation is funding additional research to determine the most effective responses to these events.

"This generous donation from the Summit will be instrumental in furthering this important research impacting children and adolescents affected by trauma," said Wendy J. Freitag, Ph.D., President of the EMDR Research Foundation.

Learn more about the Hope for Children Fund here.



ALMOST

HALF THE NATION'S CHILDREN
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TRAUMA.

Board Member Recognized

Long-time EMDR Research Foundation Board member, **Katy Murray**, was awarded the 2018 Liz Snyker Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service from the Trauma Recovery/EMDR Humanitarian Assistance Program. Murray, a Licensed Independent and Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work, received the prestigious honor at the 2018 EMDRIA Conference for her dedication to EMDR therapy. Her dedication to EMDR therapy has inspired many, and her work has been instrumental in advancing the field over the last 23 years. She is most proud of the Suicide Prevention & Survivor Support Fund initiated by her father in honor of her oldest sister who died by suicide 40 years ago. Click here to hear more from Murray about her work with EMDR therapy.

MISSION STATEMENT

The EMDR Research Foundation promotes health and growth of human beings through the support of quality research, evidence-based practice and compassionate, well-informed clinicians.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Statement of Activities

Income

 Contributions:
 \$166,159.97

 Total Income:
 \$166,159.97

Expenses

Program Expenses: \$114,087.08
Fundraising: \$8,321.09
General and Administration: \$12,925.18

Total Expenses: \$135,333.35



Statement of Financial Position

Assets

 Current Assets:
 \$396,265.34

 Total Assets:
 \$396,265.34

Liabilities

Current Liabilities: \$ 115.00

Total Liabilities: \$ 115.00

Net Assets

 Unrestricted:
 \$338,358.72

 Temporarily Restricted:
 \$26,965.00

 Net income:
 \$30,826.62

 Total Net Assets:
 \$396,150.34

Total Liabilities and Net Assets:

\$396,265.34



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